

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method, comprising:

detecting a first parental grade code as a parental code corresponding to a video signal;

generating a second parental code as the parental code when the first parental code is not detected; and

generating information that indicates the generation of the second parental code.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first parental code is information received and associated with the video signal, wherein the video signal is received from an external source.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first parental code is information recorded in a memory of a recordable medium or an optical disc player.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the second parental code is generated as a default value based on the detection result.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the default value is responsive to one of a source of the video signal, a channel of the video signal, an actor or a title.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the second parental code is generated as a value set by a user based on the detection result.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second parental codes are generated by a unit of a video program, a recording medium or a unit of a device producing the video program.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein an optical disc includes a plurality of video programs.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein an optical disc player includes a single parental code level.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the information is time information indicating when the second parental code is generated.

11. The method of claim 1, comprising displaying a message including the information, wherein the information is at least one of a level of the second parental code, text indicating the generation of the second parental code and time information indicating when the second parental code was generated.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the displaying a message comprises one of displaying the message for a predetermined time before a corresponding video program playbacks and displaying the message until acknowledged by appropriate user action.

13. The method of claim 1, comprising recording the second parental code and the information that indicates the generation of the second parental code.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the recording is performed on at least one of a memory provided in a device and a mobile recording medium.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein a first memory area stores a video signal, wherein a second memory area stores the parental code for controlling a parental view, wherein the parental code is configured to be renewed by a command, and wherein a third memory area stores status information indicating the renewal of the parental code.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the first, second and third memory areas are located in at least one of a recordable medium and an optical disc player.

17. A recording medium, comprising:  
a first memory area configured to store a video signal;

a second memory area configured to store a parental code that controls viewing access to a video program in the video signal, wherein the parental code is configured to be renewed by a command; and

a third memory area configured to store status information indicating the renewal of the parental code.

18. The recording medium of claim 17, wherein the parental code is selectively each one of a first parental code received with a corresponding video program and a prescribed second parental code when the corresponding video program does not contain the first parental code.

19. The recording medium of claim 18, wherein the second parental code is at least one of generated as a default value and generated as a value set by a user.

20. The recording medium of claim 18, wherein the status information is time information, final change data or an alert when the parental code is generated.

21. The recording medium of claim 17, wherein the status information is time stamp information when the parental code is renewed.

22. The recording medium of claim 17, wherein the renewal of the parental code is at least one of reset by a user, accessed by the user, verified user entry and operated by a password.

23. The recording medium of claim 22, wherein the status information is a history interval recording over a prescribed period of time or an prescribed number of accesses by the user.

24. The recording medium of claim 17, wherein the memory areas are provided on at least one of a memory provided in a device and a mobile recording medium.

25. An apparatus for managing a parental control code, comprising:

- a detector that detects a first parental grade code as a parental code corresponding to a video signal; and
- a parental code generator that generates a second parental code as the parental code when the first parental code is not provided as the parental code with a video signal.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the second parental code is one of generated as a default value and generated as value set by a user.

27. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising:

- a controller;

a memory;  
an on-screen generator; and  
an optical pickup for inputting and outputting data for a loaded recording medium.

28. An optical disc player, comprising:
  - a first memory area configured to store a video signal;
  - a second memory area configured to store a parental code that controls viewing access to a video program in the video signal, wherein the parental code is configured to be renewed by a command; and
  - a controller configured to detect a first parental grade code as a parental code corresponding to a video signal, wherein the controller is configured to generate a second parental code as the parental code when the first parental code is not detected.
29. The optical disc player of claim 28, further comprising a third memory area configured to store status information indicating the renewal of the parental code.
30. The optical disc player of claim 29, wherein the first memory area is on a loaded recording medium.